



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/769,030	01/30/2004	Satoshi Oshima	16869S-104700US	7614
20350	7590	01/24/2006	EXAMINER	
TOWNSEND AND TOWNSEND AND CREW, LLP TWO EMBARCADERO CENTER EIGHTH FLOOR SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111-3834			CAMPOS, YAIMA	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
			2185	

DATE MAILED: 01/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/769,030	OSHIMA ET AL.
	Examiner Yaima Campos	Art Unit 2185

— The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address —

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 January 2004.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/30/04 and 6/6/05.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. The instant application having Application No. 10/769,030 has a total of 16 claims pending in the application; there are 3 independent claims and 13 dependent claims, all of which are ready for examination by the examiner.

I. INFORMATION CONCERNING OATH/DECLARATION

Oath/Declaration

2. The applicant's oath/declaration has been reviewed by the examiner and is found to conform to the requirements prescribed in **37 C.F.R. 1.63**.

II. INFORMATION CONCERNING DRAWINGS

Drawings

3. The applicant's drawings submitted are acceptable for examination purposes.

III. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT

4. As required by **M.P.E.P. 609(C)**, the applicant's submissions of the Information Disclosure Statements dated January 30, 2004 and June 6, 2005 are acknowledged by the examiner and the cited references have been considered in the examination of the claims now pending. As required by **M.P.E.P 609 C(2)**, a copy of the PTOL-1449 initialed and dated by the examiner is attached to the instant office action.

IV. OBJECTIONS TO THE SPECIFICATION

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

5. **Claims 6, 11, and 14-15** are objected to because of the following informalities:
6. Claim 6 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form. Claim 6 appears to add no new limitations to the subject matter of claim 1, on which it depends.

Claim 11 refers to the “a system according to claim 9.” Claim 9 describes a “storage device,” not a system. It is believed that claim 11 was intended to refer to the “system” of claim 10 and has been treated as such for the rest of this Office action. Accordingly, applicant might consider changing the dependency of claim 11 from claim 9 to claim 10.

Claim 14 refers to the “a read-ahead method according to claim 12.” Claim 12 describes a “system,” not a method. It is believed that claim 14 was intended to refer to the “read-ahead method” of claim 13 and has been treated as such for the rest of this Office action. Accordingly, applicant might consider changing the dependency of claim 14 from claim 12 to claim 13.

Claim 15 refers to the “a read-ahead method according to claim 12.” Claim 12 describes a “system,” not a method. It is believed that claim 15 was intended to refer to the “read-ahead method” of claim 13 and has been treated as such for the rest of this Office action. Accordingly, applicant might consider changing the dependency of claim 15 from claim 12 to claim 13.

7. Appropriate correction is required.

V. REJECTIONS NOT BASED ON PRIOR ART

a. DEFICIENCIES IN THE CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

8. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

9. Claims 1-9 and 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

10. Claim 1 recites the limitations "each computer" in line 9, "a computer" in line 11, and "said computer" in line 14. It is not clear to the examiner to what computer(s) applicant refers to by these limitations; therefore, claim 1 is vague and indefinite. Applicant might consider amending the limitation in claim 9 to read **--each computer from a plurality of computers--**.

11. Claim 13 recites the limitations "the storage device" in line 2 and "said storage device" in lines 3, 7, 12-13, 16-17, and 18. There is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claim. The applicants might consider amending this claim to read **--a storage device--** in line 2.

12. Any claim not specifically addressed above, is being rejected as encompassing the deficiencies of a claim upon which it depends.

VI. REJECTIONS BASED ON PRIOR ART

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

13. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

14. **Claims 1-2, 6, 9-10, 12-13 and 16** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takaichi (US 2003/0018849) in view of Omura et al. (US 5,687,347).

15. As per **claims 1-2, 6, 10 and 12-13**, Takaichi discloses “A storage device/read-ahead method having a capability of learning access patterns, comprising:” [**“the present invention relates to a disk memory device for reading data recorded on a disk memory medium such as a magnetic disk, an optical disk, or the like, and, more particularly, to a data prereading method of the disk memory device”** (Page 1, Paragraph 0001) and further teaches that “**the continuity detection unit 4 calculates an access direction along which data prereading is to be carried out, by employing the history of read commands**” (Page 3, Paragraph 0047) as **“analyzing patterns of access to a storage device”** “**a control unit/management computer;**” **[With respect to this limitation, Takaichi discloses “cache his judgement unit 3,” “continuity detection unit 4,” “prereading area decision unit 6” and “prereading startup unit 7;” all within CPU 101 (Figure 1)]** “**a cache memory;**” **[Takaichi discloses this limitation as “the cache memory 10 holds the preread data”** (Page 4, Paragraph 0052)] “**and a disk device;**” **[With respect to this limitation, Takaichi discloses that “a host device 1 outputs a**

read command for reading data recorded in a disk memory medium, to the disk memory device” (Page 3, Paragraph 0044, lines 4-6)] “wherein said control unit records a data readout location the disk device as a history for each computer,” [Takaichi discloses this limitation as “**a command history information storage means for holding historic information of read commands as information for reading data recorded on a disk memory medium, which read commands are received from a host device**” (Figure 1 and Page 1, Paragraph 0012, lines 2-6)] “respectively reading out data from said storage device, based on predetermined information,” [With respect to this limitation, Takaichi discloses “**reading of a data block, which follows a data block for which a reading request has been made, is started and the read data are stored in a cache memory before a next reading request is received**” (Page 1, Paragraph 2, lines 4-7)] “and then pre-reads data to be used by a computer from said disk device to said cache memory,” [With respect to this limitation, Takaichi discloses that “**the prereading startup unit 7 instructs the disk transfer unit 8 to read out data in the data area to be preread, which is decided by the prereading area decision unit 6, from the disk memory medium, and store the read data in the cache memory 10**” (Page 4, Paragraph 0050)] “based on a command containing information for specifying said history” [With respect to this information, Takaichi discloses that “**the continuity detection unit, which has received a read command from the host device through the host I/F unit, performs a continuity detection process**” based on the position of the data which has been requested by the last read command and recorded in the read command history table as a command history information storage means” (Page 6, Paragraph 0101, lines 3-9) as having information for specifying access history within an access command]. Takaichi also

discloses having a [**“host device 1,” a “host I/F unit 2,” and a “host transfer unit 11” which send and process read commands to a disk drive which are stored on “command history table 5” as providing information for a host/client computer for each command**]. Takaichi further discloses having “a second command” for accessing data in a disk as [**“that prereading of data can be effectively performed even when the disk memory device receives continuous read commands requesting data which are located separately at equal intervals”** (Page 6, Paragraph 93)].

Takaichi does not disclose expressly having a “plurality of computers” accessing data in a disk nor “information for specifying said computer that uses said storage device.”

Omura discloses “having a plurality of computers” access data in a disk and keeping “information for specifying said computer that uses said storage device” as it is disclosed that [**“the present invention relates to a data providing device and a file server device” using a “data transfer control method for prefetching data from a storage device”** (Column 1, lines 8-9 and 12-13). Omura further explains having a “**request input section for receiving data request commands, sent over a network from a plurality of data request sections of a plurality of data request devices**” and also discloses “**a request-command storing section for storing the data request commands received by the request input section by grouping the request commands for each data request section of each data request device**” (Column 4, lines 31-39)].

Takaichi (US 2003/0018849) and Omura et al. (US 5,687,347) are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor of accessing memory and prefetching/prereading data likely to be accessed.

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine Takaichi (US 2003/0018849) with Omura et al. (US 5,687,347) and make the data to a data prereading method of a disk device, which prereads data based on access history as taught by Takaichi, further include the ability of taking “information for specifying said computer that uses said storage device” into account when more than one host device/computer is used, as disclosed by Omura.

The motivation for doing so would have been because Omura teaches that [**“the file server device of the invention has the advantage that the number of terminals that can be attached can be further increased compared to the prior art device” (Column 5, lines 37-39)**. Omura also teaches that identifying a “requesting device” aids in determining whether a certain device was “previously requested by that terminal” (Column 5, line 43) so that **“prefetching can be performed with well-balance for a plurality of terminals, that data can be transmitted at equal rates, and that the speed of processing can be improved” (Column 6, lines 7-9)**].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Omura et al. (US 5,687,347) with Takaichi (US 2003/0018849) for the benefit of creating a data storage prereading system/method to obtain the invention as specified in claims 1-2, 6, 10, and 12-13.

16. As per claim 9, the combination of Takaichi and “A storage device according to claim 1,” [See rejection to claim 1 above] “wherein the history is arranged to be recorded in form of a table specifying a relationship among a history ID, the data readout location” [With respect to this limitation, Takaichi discloses “the history of read commands stored in the read command history table 5 which is a command history information storage means” (Page 3,

Paragraph 0047)] “and the computer using the data having been stored in the location” [With respect to this limitation, Omura discloses “a request-command storing section for storing the data request commands received by the request input section by grouping the request commands for each data request section of each data request device” (Column 4, lines 31-39)].

17. As per claim 11, the combination of Takaichi and Omura discloses “A system according to claim 9,” [See rejection to claim 9 above] “wherein said management computer includes information about schedule of a designation to be transmitted to said storage device by said computer itself, and said management computer transmits said first command or second command to said storage device based on said schedule” [With respect to this limitation, Takaichi discloses that “prereading of data can be effectively performed even when the disk memory device receives continuous read commands requesting data which are located separately at equal intervals” (Page 6, Paragraph 93) and also discloses “means for holding prereading rules for performing prereading of data” (Page 2, Paragraph 0013) which is equivalent to having scheduling information for prereading data].

18. As per claim 16, the combination of Takaichi and Omura discloses “A system according to claim 10,” [See rejection to claim 10 above] “wherein said management computer classifies said plurality of computers into a plurality of groups when registering said computers” [With respect to this limitation, Omura discloses “a request-command storing section for storing the data request commands received by the request input section by grouping the request commands for each data request section of each data request device” (Column 4, lines 31-39)].

19. Claims 3-5 and 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takaichi (US 2003/0018849) and Omura et al. (US 5,687,347) as applied to claims 1-2, 6, 9-13 and 16 above, and further in view of Letwin (US 5,257,370).

20. As per claim 3 and 14-15, the combination of Takaichi and Omura discloses “A storage device according to claim 2,” [See rejection to claim 2 above] which uses predetermined time intervals for transferring of data[With respect to this limitation, Omura discloses “a request-command sequencing control section which transfers the data request commands, received from the data request sections and stored in the request-command storing section 104, one at a time to the data generating section 102 at prescribed intervals of time and in the order in which they were received” (Columns 7-8, lines 67 and 1-5) as providing prescribed time limits for transferring/recording of data] but fail to disclose expressly that “predetermined information includes information on time, and said control unit records said history as being linked with information for specifying said history and information for specifying said computer until a predetermined time”.

Letwin discloses having “predetermined information” which “includes information on time, and said control unit records said history as being linked with information for specifying said history and information for specifying said computer until a predetermined time” as [“means for caching data in a disk based computer system” which “monitors file access behavior for the file and records the access behavior in the file access log” (Column 2, lines 12-26) wherein “when a read request is received, the range of data read and the access time is monitored” (Column 3, lines 43-45) and also teaches scheduling “a preread to cache data of the disk data based on the access history and at the same time creates a new process to

instruct a new process to read the indicated data” (Column 5, lines 9-11). Letwin also discloses that a “range of access and access time are determined from the access log, and based on the rage of access and access time, it is determined whether access of the file was sequential and within a predetermined access time” (Abstract)].

Letwin (US 5,257,370), Takaichi (US 2003/0018849) and Omura et al. (US 5,687,347) are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor of accessing memory and prefetching/prereading data likely to be accessed.

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine Takaichi (US 2003/0018849) with Omura et al. (US 5,687,347) and make the data to a data prereading method of a disk device, which prereads data based on access history as taught by Takaichi, further include the ability of taking information specifying a computer/client accessing data into account when more than one host device/computer is used, as disclosed by Omura and further limit the time for every access to data as taught by Letwin.

The motivation for doing so would have been because Letwin teaches that having a predetermined time for each data access wherein [**“a method and means for determining past-access behavior by a time a file is opened; thus eliminating the delay typically required to create a past behavior log” (Column 2, lines 4-8) and also explains that this “improves the speed and performance of a computer system” (Column 2, lines 34-35)**]

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Omura et al. (US 5,687,347) with Takaichi (US 2003/0018849) and Letwin (US 5,257,370) for the benefit of creating a data storage prereading system/method to obtain the invention as specified in claims 3 and 14-15.

21. As per claim 4, the combination of Takaichi, Omura and Letwin discloses “A storage device according to claim 3,” [See rejection to claim 3 above] “wherein said predetermined information includes information for specifying a data storage location of said disk device, and said control unit records said history as being linked with said information for specifying said history and said information for specifying said computer from a time when said computer specified by said information for specifying said computer reads out data stored at a data storage location of said specified disk device” [With respect to this limitation, Takaichi discloses “**The prereading area decision unit 6 decides the position and size of a data area on the disk memory medium where prereading is to be carried out, on the basis of the read command, the result of the detection by the continuity detection unit 4, and the access area information stored in the access area information storage unit 13**” (Page 4, Paragraph 0049) as specifying a disk location from which data is to be read].

22. As per claim 5, the combination of Takaichi, Omura and Letwin discloses “A storage device according to claim 4,” [See rejection to claim 4 above] “wherein when a command of stopping record of said history is received, the record of said history is stopped” [With respect to this limitation, Letwin discloses that “**when a read request is received, the range of data read and access time is monitored. Each access is recorded until the read operation is completed ad detected**” (Column 3, lines 43-46) as accessing data within a predetermined amount of time and having “detecting” means to detect when a data access takes more time than a predetermined amount of time. Letwin and also discloses blocking “**further operation until the read operation is complete**” (Column 5, lines 32-33) as equivalent to having a stop command to stop recording data]

23. Claim 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takaichi (US 2003/0018849), Omura et al. (US 5,687,347) and Letwin (US 5,257,370) as applied to claim 1-6 and 9-16 above, and further in view of Kedem et al. (US 2003/0037202).

24. As per claims 7 and 8, the combination of Takaichi and Omura discloses “A storage device according to claim 4,” [See rejection to claim 4 above] but fails to disclose expressly that “an operating system program to be used by said specified computer is stored in a location specified by the information for specifying the data storage location of said disk device”.

Kedem discloses “an operating system program to be used by said specified computer is stored in a location specified by the information for specifying the data storage location of said disk device” as [“**The present invention is generally related to persistent storage devices, and, more specifically, to a system and method for enabling the centralized storage and maintenance of persistent storage device data images**” (Page 1, Paragraph 0003) and also teaches that “**DIMS is capable of updating the cached data image at its convenience, that is in a pull rather than a push mode, the DIMS allows all of a computer’s software (operating system, software applications, and other data) to be installed and maintained at a remote site**” (Page 8, Paragraph 0110)].

Takaichi (US 2003/0018849), Letwin (US 5,257,370), Omura et al. (US 5,687,347) and Kedem et al. (US 2003/0037202) are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor of memory accessing.

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine Takaichi (US 2003/0018849), Omura et al. (US 5,687,347) and Kedem et al. (US 2003/0037202) to make the data prereading method of a disk device, which prereads data

based on access history as taught by Takaichi, further include the ability of taking information specifying each host/client/requesting computer into account when more than one host computer is used, as disclosed by Omura and further make “the data” that is to be accessed/preread be data dealing with a computer’s software such as operating system, software applications and other data as specified by Kedem.

The motivation for doing so would have been because Kedem teaches that having a computer’s software such as operating system, software application and other data stored at remote locations [**“gives users unprecedented benefit as it requires no support form the local operating system or application software” (Page 8, Paragraph 0110) and also explains that “because the physical data image is store remotely, operating systems, applications and other data may be updated on the remote persistent storage device(s) by Information Technology (IT) professionals (through high-level interfaces such as NTFS)” (Page 8, Paragraph 0110)**].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Kedem et al. (US 2003/0037202) with Omura et al. (US 5,687,347) and Takaichi (US 2003/0018849) for the benefit of creating a data storage prereading system/method to obtain the invention as specified in claims 7 and 8.

VII. RELEVANT ART CITED BY THE EXAMINER

25. The following prior art made of record and not relied upon is cited to establish the level of skill in the applicant’s art and those arts considered reasonably pertinent to applicant’s disclosure. See MPEP 707.05(c).

26. The following references teach computer memory accessing and prefetching/prereading data likely to be accessed.

U.S. PATENT NUMBER

US 6,092,149

US 5,778,435

US 5,490,113

VIII. CLOSING COMMENTS

Conclusion

a. STATUS OF CLAIMS IN THE APPLICATION

27. The following is a summary of the treatment and status of all claims in the application as recommended by M.P.E.P. 707.07(i):

a(1) CLAIMS REJECTED IN THE APPLICATION

28. Per the instant office action, claims 1-16 have received a first action on the merits and are subject of a first action non-final.

b. DIRECTION OF FUTURE CORRESPONDENCES

29. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yaima Campos whose telephone number is (571) 272-1232. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

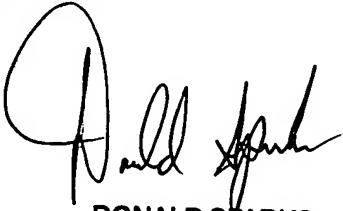
IMPORTANT NOTE

30. If attempts to reach the above noted Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Mr. Donald Sparks, can be reached at the following telephone number: Area Code (571) 272-4201.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

January 12, 2006

Yaima Campos
Examiner
Art Unit 2185



DONALD SPARKS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER